

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Festival program

Single-copy sales of this edition include an 84-page supplement; subscribers receive the same publication last

Dixie Majors

Youth league playoffs be

SOUTHPORT TIERNEY W. MOORE STREET SOUTHPORT NC 28461
 31 12-31 SORT 0001
 W 8P
 8S

Phone 910-457-4568/Fax 910-457-9427/e-mail pilot@southport.net

Volume 67, Number 45

Published every Wednesday in Southport, NC

Fourth in gear

The N. C. Fourth of July Festival officially begins today (Wednesday) with a 7 p.m. opening ceremony. The program, presided over by 1998 festival president Bette Leggett, will be preceded at 6 p.m. by the Brunswick Concert Band and followed immediately by a naturalization ceremony during which scores of immigrants will become United States citizens.

The festival, North Carolina's official observance of Independence Day, will continue through Sunday. Thursday, Beach Day activities will center at the Long Beach cabana and Middleton Park and culminate with a free beach music concert featuring the Embers. Friday activities will swing back to Southport, where the Freedom Run and children's events will be held in the morning, waterfront entertainment will continue through the afternoon and a street dance with the Spontanes will top-off the evening. Saturday's highlights will include the 11 a.m. parade and 9 p.m. fireworks display over the Cape Fear River. Southport events, including the arts and crafts show in Franklin Square Park, will be held all three days.

The annual Firemen's Competition will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. behind Southport City Hall.

A complete festival program was mailed to State Port Pilot subscribers in the June 24 edition; single-copy sales of today's edition also include the 84-page supplement, thousands more of which are being distributed by the N. C. Fourth of July Festival Committee. Police chief Bob Gray estimates more than 40,000 persons will be in Southport during the three-day celebration and says the keyword is "patience."

Traffic after the fireworks display will be congested as usual. It is suggested that persons wishing to return to Oak Island after the fireworks park on the east side of Howe Street as they will be directed along Howe Street and N. C. 211. Those leaving for other parts of Brunswick County should park on the west side of Howe Street as they will be directed along Moore Street and Jabbertown Road to N. C. 87/133.

FINAL TOUCHES



Decorations and spirits went up in Southport this week as the community prepared for the N. C. Fourth of July Festival, which commences this (Wednesday) evening at 6 p.m. with a Brunswick Concert Band performance and naturalization ceremony at the Fort Johnston Garrison.

Photo by Jim Harper

State agency review

Island bridge facing detour

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

N. C. Department of Transportation is being pressured by reviewing agencies of state and federal governments to perform a detailed study of a second bridge to Oak Island route through Sunset Harbor.

If that study is undertaken, the timeline for construction of a second Oak Island bridge will be pushed back another two years.

And, more importantly, Long Beach mayor Joan Altman says, if the Sunset Harbor route alternative is forced on DOT, the transportation value of a second bridge to Oak Island will be all but lost.

"A western route to Sunset Harbor Road will not suit the purpose of having a second bridge to Oak Island," Altman said. "We would rather have no bridge at all than a route through Sunset Harbor." That's the response I get most frequently from people.

The recent logjam of information regarding routing of the second bridge to Oak Island corridor was broken this week when mayor Altman visited DOT officials in Raleigh and received copies of review agency response to the department's Environmental Assessment (EA) of second bridge to Oak Island corridor alternatives.

Of the ten agencies responding, all but the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers have rejected DOT's Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for alternatives A, B and C, the most direct routes between a

'It is my job to let the commenting agencies know the town's position and to relay the people's support for a route to the Midway Road area.'

Joan Altman
Long Beach mayor

bridge at Middleton Street and the area of N. C. 211 at Midway Road. Many have suggested two western routes -- alternatives D and E -- would be superior. Some have called for additional route alternatives to be developed. Some have called for performance of a lengthy Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before a corridor is selected.

Alternatives D and E through Sunset Harbor were the first alternatives rejected by DOT in its Environmental Assessment. DOT found those routes to be most environmentally disruptive and most

See Bridge, page 12

Across waterway

Yaupon expands area it proposes for annexation

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

A greater piece of the mainland stands to become part of Yaupon Beach now that commissioners of that town have added about 60 acres in two planned residential and commercial subdivisions to the area proposed for annexation.

Reviewing mainland property owners' comments on the town's original annexation proposal Monday night, Yaupon Beach commissioners rescinded their resolution of intent to annex 483 acres along Long Beach Road, Airport Road and Fish Factory Road.

After doing so, commissioners adopted a second resolution of intent to annex 553.66 mainland acres, expanding the area proposed for annexation by adding to it the proposed Barnes Bluff subdivision and the former Standard Products tract at the old menhaden processing plant site on the Intracoastal Waterway.

The addition of the two subdivisions to the annexation proposal may have the added benefit of keeping Yaupon Beach out of court.

The tracts added to the proposed area of mainland annexation are owned by Point Associates LLP, which had sued Yaupon Beach over its inability to provide it wastewater service, as the town and developer had agreed. Standard Products, the parcel's former owner, had agreed to give the town six acres of land for wastewater plant site development in exchange for sewer service at a residential subdivision and marina it hoped to

'We started out with just protecting our property. When we got to thinking about it, we also have to be concerned about our economic future.'

Dot Kelly
Yaupon Beach mayor

develop. When Point Associates bought the property from Standard, it assumed rights to sewer service from Yaupon Beach. The town, however, was precluded from providing sewer service to out-of-town customers by state regulatory agencies when the town's wastewater management system disposal capacity was found to be less than it was designed to be.

Mayor Dot Kelly said Point Associates partner Ed Burnett is eager for his property to become part of Yaupon Beach. Federal loan and grant funding provisions for Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District will not permit that agency to

See Yaupon, page 6

County reading, math scores up

End-of-grade results reflect 'high expectations'

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

When Beverly Hewett discovered how well her third grade students performed in the state end-of-grade tests, she wasn't so surprised.

"My expectations are high, and I really work them hard," she said.

Preliminary results from school districts in southeastern North Carolina reveal that most students, including those in Brunswick County schools, showed dramatic improvement in reading and math for the 1997-98 school year.

Achievement is measured by assessing how

many students scored a three or four on the test, which means that, according to state standards, they are proficient in that subject. The test scores are used in the state ABC's of Public Education school reform plan to assess whether or not a school met its goals for the year.

In Brunswick County, reading scores were up as much as 10.5 percent and math scores rose as much as 13.5 percent.

A specific example of improvement is Southport Elementary, where 77 percent of third graders scored proficient on the reading test, compared to 63.8 percent for the 1996-97 school year. Third grade math scores rose from 71.7 percent to 77 percent.

Mary McDuffie, Brunswick County's assistant superintendent for curriculum, attributed the county's success to a combination of factors, including excellent teachers and staff and a staff development program.

"This is a result of several years of effort," she said. "We're really excited and elated about the progress of our students."

Hewett, who has taught at Southport Elementary for 18 years, said she and other teachers have learned a lot of different strategies over the past few years, and after constant use they are starting to pay off.

"We've implemented some different strategies, but I attribute our success mostly to just

See Scores, page 6

Williamson to fund scholarships

'No Empty Seats' for community college

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Thanks to Brunswick County developer LaDane Williamson, poor attendance at last weekend's "No Empty Seats" festival didn't affect the overall goal of the event: To have no empty seats at Brunswick Community College because of financial need.

In cooperation with the college's commitment to eliminate all barriers to higher education, Williamson announced Sunday that she will provide a program to

offer 100-percent funding for young people to attend the college.

"I believe that every Brunswick County schools graduate, GED graduate and adult high school graduate should be offered an opportunity to attend Brunswick Community College," Ms. Williamson said.

Her scholarship will fund tuition, books and supplies for students graduating from Brunswick County high schools, for those who have graduated from the college's adult high school program and for those who complete the GED

See College, page 7



WILLIAMSON